

Message Text

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NESCO

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TAGS: AORG, UNESCO, OCON

SUBJECT: UNESCO: DG'S QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPROVEMENT OF
GENERAL CONFERENCE PROCEDURES

1. UNESCO'S LETTER DG/7.9 OF APRIL 7 (COPY POUCHED
WARVARIV MAY 18) TRANSMITTED AS ANNEX ROMAN TWO A
QUESTIONNAIRE INTENDED TO ELICIT MEMBER STATES' VIEWS ON
WHETHER THE NEW PROCEDURES USED AT THE 19TH GENERAL
CONFERENCE SHOULD BE USED AT THE 20TH SESSION. PERMDEL
SHOULD PREPARE WRITTEN REPLY INCORPORATING ITS VIEWS AND
THOSE OF DEPARTMENT SET FORTH BELOW.

2. PERM DEL SHOULD STATE THAT U. S. FEELS THAT THE NEW
PROCEDURES OF THE 19TH, AS A WHOLE, GREATLY FACILITATED
THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE, AND STRONGLY URGES THAT THEY BE
USED AT THE 20TH SESSION.

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3. REMARKS ON SPECIFIC QUESTIONS FOLLOW:

QUESTION 1 (REDUCTION OF NUMBER OF PROGRAM COMMISSIONS)

(A) THE GENERAL CONFERENCE FUNCTIONED BETTER WITH THREE
COMMISSIONS THAN IT FORMERLY DID WITH FIVE. THE THREE

COMMISSION ARRANGEMENT DEFINITELY SHOULD BE CONTINUED.

(B) THE TIME ALLOWED WAS ADEQUATE. (TIME PRESSURES ARISE BECAUSE THERE IS NO GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE WAY OF LIMITING THE NUMBER OR LENGTH OF INTERVENTIONS, NOT BECAUSE OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE SECRETARIAT SCHEDULES EVENTS.)

(C) THE TRANSFER OF THE WORK OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE TO THE BUREAUX OF THE THREE COMMISSIONS WAS A POSITIVE ADVANTAGE, AS IT REDUCED THE NUMBER OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS WITH WHICH THE FULL COMMISSIONS HAD TO COPE. THE NUMBER IS STILL EXCESSIVE, BUT BETTER THAN IT USED TO BE.

(D) PERM DEL MAY SUPPLY COMMENTS.

QUESTION 2 (CONCURRENT EXAMINATION OF C/4 AND C/5)

(A) SINCE THE TWO DOCUMENTS WERE PREPARED IN DIFFERENT STYLES (C/5 BY ADMINISTRATIVE SECTOR AND C/4 BY OBJECTIVE) IT WAS NO EASIER TO EXAMINE BOTH CONCURRENTLY THAN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SEPARATELY AT THE 19TH. HOWEVER, SINCE 20 C/5 WILL BE TABULATED BY OBJECTIVE AS WELL AS BY SECTOR, CONCURRENT EXAMINATION SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO EXAMINE THE SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSALS AT THE 20TH SESSION.

(B) WE RECOMMEND CONCURRENT EXAMINATION OF 20 C/4 AND 20 C/5, AS A MEANS OF MAKING IT EASIER TO SEE HOW 20 C/4 RELATES TO 20 C/5.

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QUESTION 3 (DRAFTING AND NEGOTIATION GROUP)

(A) WE VIEW DNG AS HAVING BEEN OF SUBSTANTIAL VALUE IN ARRIVING AT CONSENSUS ON DIFFICULT ISSUES. DNG SPEEDED WORK OF CONFERENCE AND ELIMINATED MUCH DIVISIVE DEBATE THAT WOULD HAVE MADE ATTAINMENT OF CONSENSUS MORE DIFFICULT.

(B), (C), AND (D) MAY BE ANSWERED BY PERM DEL.

QUESTION 4 (ELIMINATION OF WRITTEN REPORTS)

(A) LACK OF WRITTEN REPORTS WAS A POSITIVE AND IMPORTANT IMPROVEMENT IN CONDUCT OF COMMISSION BUSINESS. IT NOT ONLY SAVED HUMAN RESOURCES, TIME AND MONEY, BUT SINCE THERE WAS NO RECORD IT REMOVED THE INCENTIVE TO SPEAK FOR THE RECORD.

(B) IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE ADVISABLE TO RE-INTRODUCE

THE SYSTEM OF WRITTEN REPORTS IN COMMISSIONS.

QUESTION 5 (VOTE ON PROVISIONAL BUDGET CEILING)

(A) IN UNESCO (ALTHOUGH THIS NOT TRUE IN SOME OTHER AREAS OF UN SYSTEM) HISTORY OF BUDGET MAKING INDICATES THAT FIXING OF PROVISIONAL BUDGET CEILING PRIOR TO BUDGET DEBATE IN FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION DOES TEND TO HOLD DOWN BUDGET LEVEL. WE BELIEVE THE PRACTICE SHOULD BE CONTINUED FOR THE DISCIPLINARY EFFECT IT HAS ON DELEGATES IN F AND A COMMISSION.

(B) NO.

QUESTION 6 (SUBMISSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS)

(A) PERM DEL MAY ANSWER.

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(B) RULES 78 A AND 78 B MAKE THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE EASIER THAN IT WOULD BE IF THERE WERE NO TIME LIMITATIONS AT ALL.

(C) SUBJECT TO PERM DEL'S VIEWS, WE SUGGEST THAT RULE 78 A.3 MIGHT BE ELIMINATED, THUS MAKING THE MAXIMUM LEAD TIME FOR SUBMITTING DRAFT RESOLUTIONS SEVEN DAYS. TO THE EXTENT THAT THE CONTINUING PROLIFERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (EVEN THOUGH IT WAS LOWER AT THE 19TH, IT IS STILL EXCESSIVE) CAN BE REDUCED, THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE WILL BE FACILITATED. VANCE

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